

<b>Member</b>	Anthony Cianflone	<b>Electorate</b>	Pascoe Vale
<b>Period</b>	1 April 2024 to 30 June 2024		

<b>Regulation 6 - Expense allowance and electorate allowance</b>	
<b>Total amount paid to member for electorate allowance</b>	\$12,079.83
<b>Total amount paid to member for expense allowance</b>	\$0.00

<b>Regulation 7 - Motor vehicle allowance</b>	
<b>Total amount paid to member for motor vehicle allowance</b>	\$0.00
<b>Member did not receive the motor vehicle allowance in the previous quarter and member has elected to receive the motor vehicle allowance for this quarter</b>	No

<b>Regulation 9 - Parliamentary accommodation sitting allowance</b>	
<b>Total amount paid to member for parliamentary accommodation sitting allowance</b>	\$0.00
<b>Suburb in which the member's parliamentary accommodation is located</b>	n/a

<b>Regulation 10 - Travel allowance claims</b>					
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid	Town or city in which accommodation was located	Value of the accommodation
<b>Total number of nights for travel allowance claims</b>			0		
<b>Total amount paid to member for travel allowance</b>			\$0.00		

<b>Regulation 11 - Commercial transport allowance claims</b>					
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid	Mode of transport	Value of transport
<b>Total number of nights for commercial transport allowance claims</b>			0		
<b>Total amount paid to member for commercial transport allowance</b>			\$0.00		

<b>Regulation 12 - International travel allowance claims</b>			
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid
17-Apr-24	28-Apr-24	Flights to Turkey for the Gallipoli Anzac 2024 Service at Anzac Cove Overseas Study Tour - Electorate Business	\$7,820.30
17-Apr-24	28-Apr-24	Parliamentary Delegation to Turkey - Anzac Accommodation	\$1,967.84
<b>Total number of nights for international travel allowance claims</b>			11.00
<b>Total amount paid to member for international travel allowance</b>			\$9,788.14
See attached travel report for further details			

**Anthony Cianflone MP**  
**State Labor Member for Pascoe Vale**  
Anzac Delegation 2024  
Victorian Members of Parliament Delegation - Travel Report  
18 April 2024 – 28 April 2024



**Attendees:**

Natalie Suleyman MP, State Member for St Albans  
Tim Bull MP, State Member for Gippsland East  
Ella George MP, State Member for Lara  
Belinda Wilson MP, State Member for Narre Warren North  
Juliana Addison MP, State Member for Wendouree  
Emma Kealy MP, State Member for Lowan  
Luba Grigorovitch MP, State Member for Kororoit  
Pauline Richards MP, State Member for Cranbourne  
Matt Fregon MP, State Member for Ashwood  
**Anthony Cianflone MP, State Member for Pascoe Vale**  
Cindy McLeish MP, State Member for Eildon  
Martin Cameron MP, State Member for Morwell  
John Berger MP, State Member for Southern Metropolitan Region  
Tim McCurdy MP, State Member for Ovens Valley

## **Statement of Objectives:**

In April 2024, I was proud to be part of a cross-party Victorian Members of Parliament Delegation to Türkiye to attend the Anzac Memorial Services, visit places of cultural significance, and engage with the Turkish Government and Parliament.

This Victorian Parliament's Anzac Delegation is an annual tradition for State Members of Parliament. After a pause on travel due to the pandemic, this tradition returned in 2024.

Türkiye and Australia share a unique bond – through the shared experience that began on the battlefields of Çanakkale (Gallipoli). This year marks the 109<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the Gallipoli campaign that forged the spirit of the Anzacs of mateship, camaraderie and mutual respect. Values that now form part of the national identity of Australia, New Zealand and Türkiye.

Since that time, Australia and Türkiye have become close friends and share in commemorations on Anzac Day and throughout the year as thousands of Australians make the pilgrimage to Gallipoli to pay their respects and honour the fallen.

Victoria is home to the largest Turkish community in Australia, with over 40,000 living here in 2024. The municipality of Merri-bek (*which covers the Pascoe Vale Electorate*) is home to a particularly sizeable Turkish community, home to over 5,600 local residents of Turkish descent, which consists of almost 2,000 local residents who were born in Türkiye, and a further 3,653 residents of Turkish ancestry.

The Pascoe Vale Electorate is also proudly home to several significant Turkish community groups, festivals, and events hosted across the suburbs of Pascoe Vale, Coburg and Brunswick West every year, including the Moreland Turkish Association which was established in 1985 and continues to host one of the biggest annual Turkish Cultural Celebration-Weekends, with its 2024 event attracting over 20,000 visitors.

Furthermore, the Pascoe Vale Electorate has a longstanding veteran's community, with its origins stretching back to the very first Anzacs who landed and served at Gallipoli, who continue to be commemorated locally through the work of the Coburg RSL and Pascoe Vale RSL respectively, and whose graves and remains continue to be preserved throughout the cemeteries of the Gallipoli Peninsula thanks to the Turkish Government.

The arrival of Turkish Airlines' inaugural flight to Melbourne in March 2024 and the announcement that they would base their operations out of Melbourne Airport illustrates the growing importance of these growing historic, cultural and economic ties. Representing a major opportunity for increased international trade and tourism, the arrival of Turkish Airlines also provides for more competition and cheaper flights for Victorians while also creating new job opportunities for my constituents and Victorians. Melbourne Airport in the North-West of metro Melbourne is a growing centre of economic activity which supports over 20,000 jobs, with the majority of employees living in the north-west region, including the Pascoe Vale electorate. Melbourne Airport forecasts job creation to reach over 40,000 by 2038, through increased aviation and trade activity, which the arrival of new Turkish Airline flights very much will help to support.

By fostering these economic and cultural ties between Victoria and Türkiye, we can develop further economic opportunities for both communities. As the Member for Pascoe Vale, I'm regularly engaged in discussions with stakeholders to further enhance our cross-cultural connections and explore trade, tourism, and education opportunities for the electorate and for Victoria.

### **Summary of meetings and visits:**

#### **17-18 April 2024**

Departed Melbourne and arrived in Istanbul (flight).

#### **19 April 2024**

Briefing on the Victorian Members of Parliament Delegation to Türkiye's tour itinerary and related matters.

#### **20 April 2024 – 21 April 2024**

The Delegation visited the major cultural and historical sites of Istanbul which included the Dolmabahçe Palace, Sultan Ahmet Mosque, Ayasofya Mosque, Basilica Cistern, Topkapı Palace, the Bosphorus and the Grand Bazaar. These are places of immense historical and cultural significance for Türkiye.

We met with the chair of the Council of Foreign Economic Relations of the Türkiye-Australia Business Council, Mr Steven Young. Mr Young is an Australian of Turkish heritage based in Istanbul, we spoke about growing business ties between Australia and Türkiye. He noted the opportunities that direct flights between Melbourne and Istanbul presented for business, trade and tourism.

For the period of 18th April to the morning of 22nd April, accomodation expenses claims include \$1,000 for accomodation in Isanbul.





**22 April 2024**

Depart Istanbul, travel to Ankara (flight)

Stayed in Ankara.

The Delegation had the honour of visiting the Mausoleum of Atatürk (Anıtkabir) to pay our respects, lay a wreath, and sign the Book of Honour. It serves as the resting place of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of modern day Türkiye.





Mustafa Kemal Atatürk was the founder of the Republic of Türkiye and served as its first President from 1923 until his death in 1938.

During the ANZAC campaign, Atatürk was the commander in charge of Turkish forces.

After the Gallipoli campaign, Atatürk famously said:

*Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives...*

*You are now lying in the soil of a friendly country.*

*Therefore rest in peace.*

*There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehmets to us where they lie side by side now here in this country of ours...*

*You, the mothers, who sent their sons from faraway countries wipe away your tears;*

*Your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace.*

*After having lost their lives on this land they have become our sons as well.*

The Delegation paused to view the words inscribed into the stone of the Mausoleum and reflect on the significance of this statement which has become an enduring symbol of the relationship between Türkiye and Australia.

We joined with the Australian Ambassador Mr Miles Armitage from the Embassy of Australia in Ankara, and Parliamentarians of the Türkiye-Australia Interparliamentary Friends Group from the Turkish Grand Assembly.

For the period of 22nd April to the morning of 23rd April, accommodation expenses claims include \$200 for accommodation in Ankara.

### **23 April 2024**

Delegation members visited the Turkish Grand National Assembly (TGNA).

The TGNA has 600 members and is located in Ankara, the capital city of Türkiye.

The Delegation joined a reception hosted by HE Halil Eldemir, the President of the Türkiye-Australia Interparliamentary Friendship Group, Member of Parliament for Bilecik. Other Parliamentarians also joined this reception.

We had the opportunity to discuss the relationship between Türkiye and Victoria. We also spoke about Global Victoria and how Turkish migrants living in Victoria have benefited from the support of Global Victoria to import and export goods. There are many examples of successful Turkish migrants in business within the north-west metro Melbourne region. We discussed the economic and cultural opportunities between Türkiye for businesses of all sizes. We also discussed the history of the Victorian Parliament's Anzac Delegation and how this shared historical event has strengthened ties between Australia and Türkiye. We thanked the Turkish Government for their continued support in maintaining war memorials, allowing Australians to honour our country's veterans each year, reflecting on the significant cooperation between the Australian and Turkish Governments to enable travel and commemoration on Anzac Day and throughout the year.

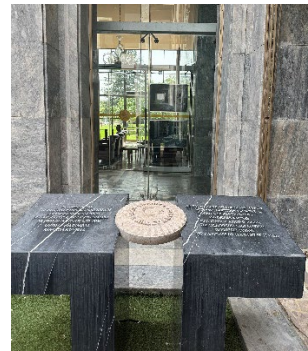
We also attended the TGNA General Assembly Special Session for the Anniversary of Foundation of the TGNA and a guided tour of the TGNA. This coincides with National Sovereignty and Children's Day in Türkiye – a very significant day in Türkiye that celebrates democracy and the importance of young people.

Finally, we met with HE Bekir Bozdağ, the Deputy Speaker of TGNA.

We then departed Ankara to Çanakkale (domestic flight).







Pictures above: Meeting with Members of Parliament of the Grand Assembly, including Halil Eldemir, Sureyya Ones Derici, Ismail Faruk Aksu, Dr. Muzeyyen Sevkin, Onder Aksakal.



**24 April 2024 Turkish Service.**

The Delegation attended the Ceremony for the 109th Anniversary of the Land Wars of Çanakkale, where the President of the Gallipoli Historic Site, Ismail Kasdemir, delivered a moving speech. Mr Kasdemir particularly spoke about the common ground that Gallipoli now represents as a sacred meeting place to reflect and commemorate.



**24 April – Honouring Anzacs from Pascoe Vale, Coburg and Brunswick**

Following the Turkish Service, I had the absolute privilege of visting some of the cemeteries and gravesites along the Gallipoli Peninsula to pay tribute to some of the many young men from our local community who enlisted and sacrificed their lives during World War 1 at Gallipoli.

Among the 8,700 Australians who lost their lives at Gallipoli over the eight month campaign from April to December 1915, there are at least 62 known servicemen who made the ultimate sacrifice from our local community who remain buried on the Peninsula, some of whom I had the privilege to pay my respects to on behalf of the Pascoe Vale, Coburg and Brunswick communities (*which ive also since acknowledged in Parliament via an [Adjournment](#)*):

***Sapper Harold Evelyn Baxter, 23 years old, of Coburg, killed 13 June, buried at Beach Cemetery***



***Private Garnet Albert-Roy Brooks, 18 years old, of Brunswick, killed 13 October, buried at Shrapnel Valley***





**Lance Corporal Gordon Peter Cameron, 24 years old, of Brunswick, killed 12 July, buried at Shrapnel Valley**



**Private John William Eric Cox, 22 years old, of Brunswick, killed 3 November, buried at Shrapnel Valley**





**Private Francis Joseph Docter, 22 years Old, died 25<sup>th</sup> November 1915, buried Shell Green Cemetery**



**Private John Thomas Hancher, 23 years old, of Brunswick, killed 8 May, buried at Redoubt Cemetery (\*\*He had a Gippsland and Coburg Link... hence the joint photo with Tim Bull MP, Member for Gippsland East)**



**Lance Corporal Leslie Hart, 18 years old, of Brunswick, killed 4 May, buried at Beach Cemetery**



**Private Thomas Enoch Haylock, 31 years old, of Coburg, killed 12 October, buried at Shrapnel Valley**





**Trooper John Thomas Leonard, age unknown, of Brunswick, killed 30 May, buried at Ari Burnu Cemetery**



**Private William Thomas Libbis, Age Unknown, killed 7<sup>th</sup> August 1915, Buried Quinns Post Cemetery**





**Private Frank Anthony O’Loghlen, 19 years old, of Brunswick, killed 16 September, buried at Shrapnel Valley**



**Trooper Frederick Joseph Smith, age unknown, of Brunswick, killed 7 August, buried at Ari Burnu Cemetery**



**Private Douglas William Thompson, age unknown, of Brunswick, killed 20 May, buried at Beach Cemetery**



Private D. W. Thompson  
7th Bn., K...  
(Media Studio, photo)



Along with Parliamentary and Delegation colleagues, including the Member for Gippsland East Tim Bill, I would like to thank Michael Mamouney from the Victorian Parliamentary Library for the diligent research and support that helped inform and guide our Delegation's ability to locate and pay tribute to our local veterans. I would also like to commend Michael Pianta (*President of Coburg RSL*) and Les Mananov (*from Veteran Scarves*) for their assistance in providing our delegation with local memorabilia, including the 'poppy scarves', to support our Gallipoli commemorations. Commendations to the Turkish officials who do an incredible job all year around to maintain and preserve the gravesites of all Anzacs, including the locals I was humbled to acknowledge in what was a genuinely moving experience.



**25 April 2024**

**Dawn Service**

The Delegation attended the Anzac Day Dawn Service at Anzac Cove.

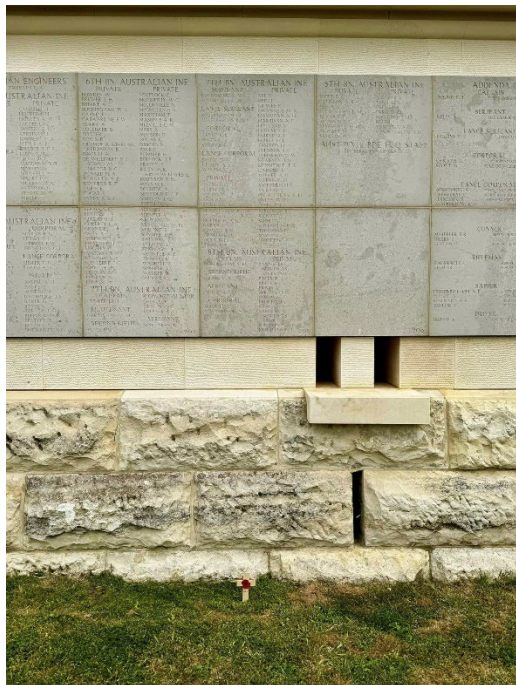
The Dawn Service is an important time for reflection on the service and sacrifice of our state's veterans. The Victorian Minister for Veterans, Hon Natalie Suleyman MP, laid a wreath on behalf of the Delegation and the Victorian Government.

The Delegation joined over 1,500 travellers from Australia and New Zealand joined Turkish and other dignitaries at the former World War I battlefields at Gallipoli for a solemn service at dawn. As the sun rose, participants held a minute of silence to reflect on the sacrifices of tens of thousands of soldiers from the Australia and New Zealand Army Corps, who landed at the beaches at Gallipoli, in north-west Türkiye. Deputy Prime Minister Hon Richard Marles MP gave a moving speech, reflecting on the spirit of the Anzacs who made the ultimate sacrifice in service of their nation and the lives lost on both sides of the conflict. The service was followed by a breakfast where we had the opportunity to meet with the Deputy Prime Minister of Australia, and also the Deputy Prime Minister of New Zealand, Hon Winston Peters MP, who also attended and spoke at the service.





It is so important that Australians continue to make the journey to Gallipoli, to pay their respects to our ANZACs, and remember our significant wartime history and we should continue to support Australians join this service in the future. Given the inextricably strong links between local veterans who served in Gallipoli from across the Pascoe Vale Electorate, and our local cultural connections with many residents of Turkish ancestry, the journey is of particularly profound significance.





Following the Dawn Service, we paid our respects at the Lone Pine Monument, commemorating the 3,268 Australians and 456 New Zealanders who died in the campaign and have no known grave, and the 960 Australians and 252 New Zealanders who were buried at sea. This was a significant service with many Delegation members also visiting the graves of soldiers from their electorates honoured at Lone Pine.

The Australian Dawn service was followed by services for the the armed forces of France, United Kingdom and New Zealand.





We also visited the Conkbayırı Monument.

Together with my colleagues John Berger, Pauline Richards, Natalie Suleyman, and Matt Fregon we travelled to Urfa. Urfa has rich historical and cultural significance, including Göbekli Tepe - the world's oldest known temple and a birthplace for human civilisation, dating back 11,500 years ago.

For the period of 23<sup>rd</sup> April to the morning of 25<sup>th</sup> April, accomodation expenses claims include \$500 for accomodation in Canakkale.

### **26 April 2024**

Şanlıurfa/ Şanlıurfa to Istanbul (flight)

In the morning the delgation visited Göbekli Tepe which is a Neolithic archaeological site in the Southeastern Anatolia Region of Turkiye. The settlement was inhabited from 9,500 to at least 8,000 BCE famous for its large circular structures that contain massive stone pillars – the world's oldest known megaliths.

The delegation then went onto the Pool of Abraham in Sanliurfa and the Mevlid-I Halil Mosque. Balıklıgöl and neighbouring Aynzeliha pools are among the most visited places in Şanlıurfa and have significance in Christianity, Islam and Judaism. Balıklıgöl, is a pool in the southwest of the city center of Şanlıurfa, Turkey



### **27 April 2024**

Delegation concludes.

For the period of 26<sup>th</sup> April to the morning of 28<sup>th</sup> April, accomodation expenses claims include \$800 for accomodation in Istanbul.

### **28 April – 29 April 2024**

Istanbul to Melbourne (flight)

### **Concluding remarks:**

Victoria and Türkiye have long had strong cultural, historical, social and economic ties which can be strengthened even further between our communities and governments.

Victoria is home to largest Turkish community in Australia and many successful Turkish migrants. Opportunities can continue to grow in this area with further investment, trade and tourism.

Additionally, the significant Turkish community in the Victoria reflects “the Johnnies and the Mehments” that Ataturk so famously described. It was an honour to be part of this Parliamentary Delegation to represent the people of Pascoe Vale, Coburg and Brunswick West at several commemorative services – especially given the number of local veterans who served, sacrificed and remain buried along the Gallipoli Peninsula, and given the number of people with Turkish ancestry who call our local community home.

It is so important that we continue to remember and honour the ANZACs and reflect on our wartime history. There are many occasions across the year for Victorians to honour our past and presently serving veterans both at home and overseas, and I would encourage all Victorians to take part in these moving and important services.